

**REMARKS**

The present application was filed on March 12, 2004 with claims 1 through 35. Claims 1 through 35 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1, 24, and 25 are proposed to be amended and new claims 36-46 are proposed to be added herein.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Matsuura et al. (United States Patent Application Publication Number 2006/0156209).

Independent Claims 1, 24 and 25

Independent claims 1, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Matsuura et al. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Matsuura teaches performing, based on the evaluation of the one or more rules, one or more actions specified for the one or more rules.

Applicants note that Matsuura, however, does not disclose or suggest *receiving one or more rules from an application and sending a trigger to the application* based on the one or more rules, and does not disclose or suggest reducing one or more rules *based on subscribers associated with one or more nodes*. New independent claims 36, 37, and 38 require receiving one or more rules from an application; and sending a trigger to said application based on said one or more rules. New independent claims 39 and 43 require receiving one or more rules in one or more nodes; and reducing said one or more rules based on subscribers associated with one or more of said nodes.

Thus, Matsuura et al. do not disclose or suggest receiving one or more rules from an application; and sending a trigger to said application based on said one or more rules, as required by new independent claims 36, 37, and 38, and does not disclose or suggest receiving one or more rules in a node; and reducing said one or more rules based on subscribers associated with one or more of said nodes, as required by new independent claims 39 and 43.

Dependent Claims 2-23 and 26-35 and New Dependent Claims 40-42 and 44-46

Dependent 2-23 and 26-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Matsuura et al.

Claims 1-23, 24, 25-35, and new claims 40-42 and 44-46 are dependent on claims 36, 37, 38, 39, and 43, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Matsuura et al. because of their dependency from new independent claims 36, 37, 38, 39, and 43 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.

All of the pending claims following entry of the amendments, i.e., claims 1-46, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated

Respectfully submitted,

/ Kevin M. Mason/

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